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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/762,530	05/15/2001	Reto Sieber	F 6817	5031
7590 Jordan and Hamburg 122 East 42nd Street New York, NY 10168				
			EXAMINER CHANG, VICTOR S	
			ART UNIT 1794	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 10/24/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary**Application No.**

09/762,530

Applicant(s)

SIEBER ET AL.

Examiner

VICTOR S. CHANG

Art Unit

1794

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 September 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 16-19, 22-35 and 37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 11, 16-19, 22-35 and 37 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/C)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Introduction

1. Applicants' amendments and remarks filed on 9/17/2008 have been entered. Claims 11, 16-18, 25-27 and 32-35 have been amended. Claim 36 has been cancelled. Claims 11, 16-19, 22-35 and 37 are active.
2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.
3. In response to the amendments, the grounds of rejection have been updated as set forth below. Further, in view of the new matter issues set forth below, the grounds of rejections over Marchal, Su and Plumly references are withdrawn, and to be reinstated, if appropriate. Rejections not maintained are withdrawn.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 11 is objected to because of the following informalities:

In claim 11, ll. 12, the phrase "second pressure sensitive pressure sensitive adhesive coating" has redundant term "pressure sensitive".

In claim 17, ll. 4, the term "napplication" contains an apparent typo.

Corrections are required in the next reply.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 11, 16-19, 22-35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement. The claim(s) contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s), at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention.

More particularly, in claim 11, since the terms “first pattern” and “second pattern” are absent from the original specification, they appear to be new matter.

Further, claim 37 recites “said first pattern is on the entire top surface of said backing layer.” However, the limitation “entire top surface” appears to be new matter, because no support can be found in the original specification. Applicants must cancel new matter, or provide a clear support in the next reply.

6. Claims 11, 16-19, 22-35 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 11, since the terms “first pattern” and “second pattern” are absent from the original specification, it is unclear what are the scopes of these terms.

Further, absence of a support what is the scope of the term “entire top surface”, the term is also vague and indefinite to the examiner.

Clarifications and supports are required in the next reply.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicants' arguments directed to withdrawn references are moot.

In response to the 112, 1st paragraph, rejection over the term “entire top surface” in claim 37, pointing to various sections in the specification, applicants conclude at Remarks pages 12-13 that

“Thus, one skilled in the art can reasonably conclude that when the specification states that the “backing layer ... is coated on a top surface” that the coating is on the entire top surface.”

However, none of the sections positively discloses “entire top surface”. Since it is well known that the adhesiveness of an adhesive coating can be modified by patterns of reduced surface coverage, absence of a support what is the scope of the term “entire top surface”, the examiner maintains the 112 rejections.

Conclusion

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to VICTOR S. CHANG whose telephone number is (571)272-1474. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 5:00 pm, Tuesday - Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rena Dye can be reached on 571-272-3186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Victor S Chang/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794